

Through wars, droughts, fires and flood, Virginians have held on to their homes and land by making great sacrifices. These trials have caused them to see quite clearly that while many things may change, family home and land remain constant and dear. —Betty Wells Edwards

Findings

- The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) administers easements on more than 418 historic properties and 23,771 acres of land. The Commonwealth's Statewide Strategic Plan directs the preservation and enhancement of Virginia's natural and historic resources through a cooperative system of well-managed and high-performing agencies.
- Reusing the existing, built environment eliminates waste, reduces sprawl, conserves green and open space, creates housing, renews declining neighborhoods and attracts visitors. Sustaining historic resources promotes economic development, heritage tourism, education, community identity and smart growth.
- According to the 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey*, visiting historic sites is the 2nd most popular outdoor recreation activity for Virginians with at least 56% of the population participating in the activity.
- Historic resources are key assets in Virginia's \$16 billion travel and tourism industry. Heritage tourism visitors spend 2.5 times more money and stay longer than other travelers. Every year 275 historic attractions generate over \$6.5 million visits.
- Renewed historic resources strengthen local economies. Cumulative private investment in Virginia Main Street designated communities, which use historic preservation as a strategy for downtown revitalization, topped \$364.5 million in 2005. Since the Virginia Main Street program was created in 1985, more than 3,800 businesses have been created, retained or expanded, thereby stimulating the creation of over 10,700 jobs.
- DHR's 180,000 records on historic structures and archaeological sites, along with its collection of five million artifacts, are valuable resources for environmental stewardship and education. They are used publicly for comprehensive land use planning, building new highways, making zoning and land use management decisions, and privately for a wide variety of land use and research purposes. The Historic Data Sharing System (DSS) identifies the location of nearly 200,000 architectural and archaeological sites throughout the state. Licenses to access this database are available for a fee from DHR.
- Historic preservation is an economic and community revitalization tool for communities. Historic rehabilitation through public-private partnerships, combined with state and federal tax credits, has the added benefit of supporting smart growth and helping to stem sprawl in urban and suburban areas throughout Virginia. In 2005, Virginia ranked second among the 50 states in the use of federal tax incentives to rehabilitate historic buildings with 140 approved projects and 74 completed projects. State and federal rehabilitation tax credits can be combined to leverage 45 percent for eligible expenses, making multi-million dollar projects possible across Virginia.
- Since the federal program began in 1976, more than 1,700 deteriorated historically significant buildings in Virginia have been returned to productive service. This represents a private investment of \$1.7 billion. The parallel state program, initiated in 1997, has spawned over 330 projects generating over \$159 million of economic activity independent of the federal program. Every million dollars spent rehabilitating historic sites creates 29.8 new jobs and generates \$779,800 in household income.
- State and federal agencies own and operate historic resources, which offer a wide variety of educational and recreational opportunities. Good stewardship of these resources is necessary to sustain these opportunities for citizens and communities in Virginia.
- The erosion of Virginia's scenic and cultural landscape is a consequence of current population growth and development patterns. A change in land use planning policy to incorporate public appreciation for the economic value of cultural landscapes and scenic resources is important to long-term stewardship of these resources. Recognition programs, like the American Society of Landscape Architects Centennial Medallion Program, are important in identifying and promoting the protection of significant

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cultural landscapes. Scenic nonprofit organizations, such as Scenic America and Scenic Virginia, work actively to recognize the importance of cultural landscapes to economic success and community sense of place (See Chapter VII-D: Scenic Resources).

- The creation of a statewide system of heritage areas in Maryland and similar programs in other states, such as New York and Oregon, have generated economic development, produced new heritage tourism visitation, leveraged significant non-state funds, and built state and local partnerships. A 2003 analysis of the Maryland program indicated that every grant dollar invested in the program showed a return of \$4.61 in annual, ongoing state and local tax revenues. The analysis also indicated that the Maryland program's award of \$4.4 million in grants had leveraged about \$2.5 million from local governments, more than \$2.5 million from the private sector, and \$600,000 in federal funds. The state's \$4.4 million investment enabled \$10.3 million for heritage area projects.
- Heritage groups in several regions of the state are looking at promoting roadways or highways that have long histories, but may not qualify for designation as Virginia Byways. The promoters of these efforts are considering incorporation of their roadways into the National Scenic Byways program. The challenge is that a road corridor cannot be designated as a National Scenic Byway unless it has already received designation through a state road program.

Recommendations

- Each locality should make every effort to identify historic, archaeological and landscape resources for full enjoyment of their economic, tourism, recreational, community and educational benefits. These resources should be integrated into all local land use planning and decision-making processes promoting conservation and protection.
- Local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations should build partnerships with the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities/Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program, Virginia's chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and others to enhance local heritage tourism, and improve educational and recreational offerings. The Commonwealth of Virginia should consider adoption of a statewide system of heritage areas modeled after programs in other states such as Maryland and New York that serve to generate economic development, produce new heritage tourism visitation, leverage significant non-state funds, and build state and local preservation and tourism partnerships.
- The Virginia Departments of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Transportation (VDOT) and Historic Resources (DHR) should cooperate in a study to determine the viability of developing a his-



Augusta County scenery. Photo by Nancy Sorrells.

toric roads designation for Virginia. The designation could apply to historic roads and highways that trace centuries of cultural development in Virginia. The designation could become an adjunct to the Virginia Byways program and could support communities wishing to participate in the National Scenic Byway program.

- DHR should continue to sustain and support community, individual and organizational preservation efforts through all of its program activities – most notably those on the inventory of historic sites, registration of historic properties and historic highway markers that help identify significant historic places. Also, DHR should continue to support easement programs for cultural resource protection, project review, historic rehabilitation tax credits and technical assistance to help localities and property owners make the best use of historic places and landscapes.
- DHR should continue to practice good stewardship of the records, information and artifacts that it holds for the benefit and use of the citizens and communities of the Commonwealth. Initiatives to increase accessibility of such information for all state, federal and local planning purposes should be pursued.
- DHR, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities/Preservation Virginia, and all related organizations should continue to enhance educational efforts and outreach about preservation benefits, resources and tools through such activities as National Preservation Month in May and Virginia Archaeology Month in October.
- DHR and DCR should work together to share information on the potential recreational use of historic properties and to ensure sensitive treatment of historic properties managed by DCR or affected through its grants and programs. The two agencies should cooperate in developing and maintaining an updated list of historic properties that are open to the public for visitation and recreational use.
- State, federal and local agencies that own historic properties should be encouraged to manage those properties effectively for long-term protection of the public trust and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.
- DHR will promote recognition of significant historic properties through listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register, and through designation as National Historic Landmarks. State and federal designation of these places will foster greater awareness of the state's most important cultural resources and encourage



Natural Bridge Tunnel. Photo by Nancy Sorrells.

their preservation. DHR will support the designation of the Virginia State Capitol as a World Heritage Site. Additionally, these designations will promote the active use of federal funding for the preservation of Virginia's historic resources through the National Park Service (NPS) Historic Preservation Fund and the federal Save America's Treasures and Preserve America programs.

- DHR and DCR will support and promote the Historic American Landscapes program through partnerships with the American Society of Landscape Architects and others. They will identify and sponsor outreach related to the stewardship and management of cultural and scenic landscape resources.
- Education about the importance of visual and cultural landscapes and responsible stewardship of them shall be fostered through presentation of cultural landscape topics and management applications at the annual Environment Virginia conference. A technical bulletin and additional web-based support, which will provide information related to the stewardship of cultural and scenic landscapes, will be developed by DHR and DCR to improve outreach to managers of cultural landscapes.

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- DHR will encourage systematic study and recordation of cultural and historic properties on the Virginia landscape in every locality through its promotion and administration of the Cost Share Survey and Planning Program.
- DHR will cooperate with DCR in designing the public participation process for the 2012 Virginia Outdoors Plan and will explore the feasibility of integrating the goals, objectives and strategies of the next iteration of Virginia's statewide historic preservation plan with the 2012 Virginia Outdoors Plan.

Importance of stewardship of scenic and cultural landscapes

Virginia's experience and sense of place involve a tapestry of sites and features of historical value, natural elements, cultural and social elements, and recreational resources. Each component has its own value, but more importantly, together they build synergy and an expression of scenic and cultural landscape character. The preservation, interpretation and good stewardship of cultural landscapes can serve to create a memorable voyage of discovery for the Commonwealth's visitors and citizens.

It is important for Virginia to recognize that management of cultural landscapes is essential to preserve and continue valued journeys and stories of the rich heritage associated with the Commonwealth's resources. The quality and character of cultural landscapes, considered in both their historical and scenic contexts, need to be recognized and preserved. Stewardship of these resources must ensure their long-term integrity. Existing programs such as the designation of Virginia Byways, scenic rivers, historic districts, heritage areas, conservation and recreation lands serve as useful tools to recognize major components of important cultural landscapes. Large land tracts and public lands including state parks like Douthat, Chippokes, False Cape, Grayson Highlands and New River Trail must be viewed holistically and include buffer lands outside the parks. These state parks must not only be managed for their ability to offer a particular feature, or serve a specific use, but also for the inclusive cultural landscapes within and outside the park context. Resources included in the Virginia Byway and scenic river system, as well as local greenways, conserve Virginia's unique sense of place and scenic character and should be managed as important cultural landscapes.

Cultural resources program history and direction

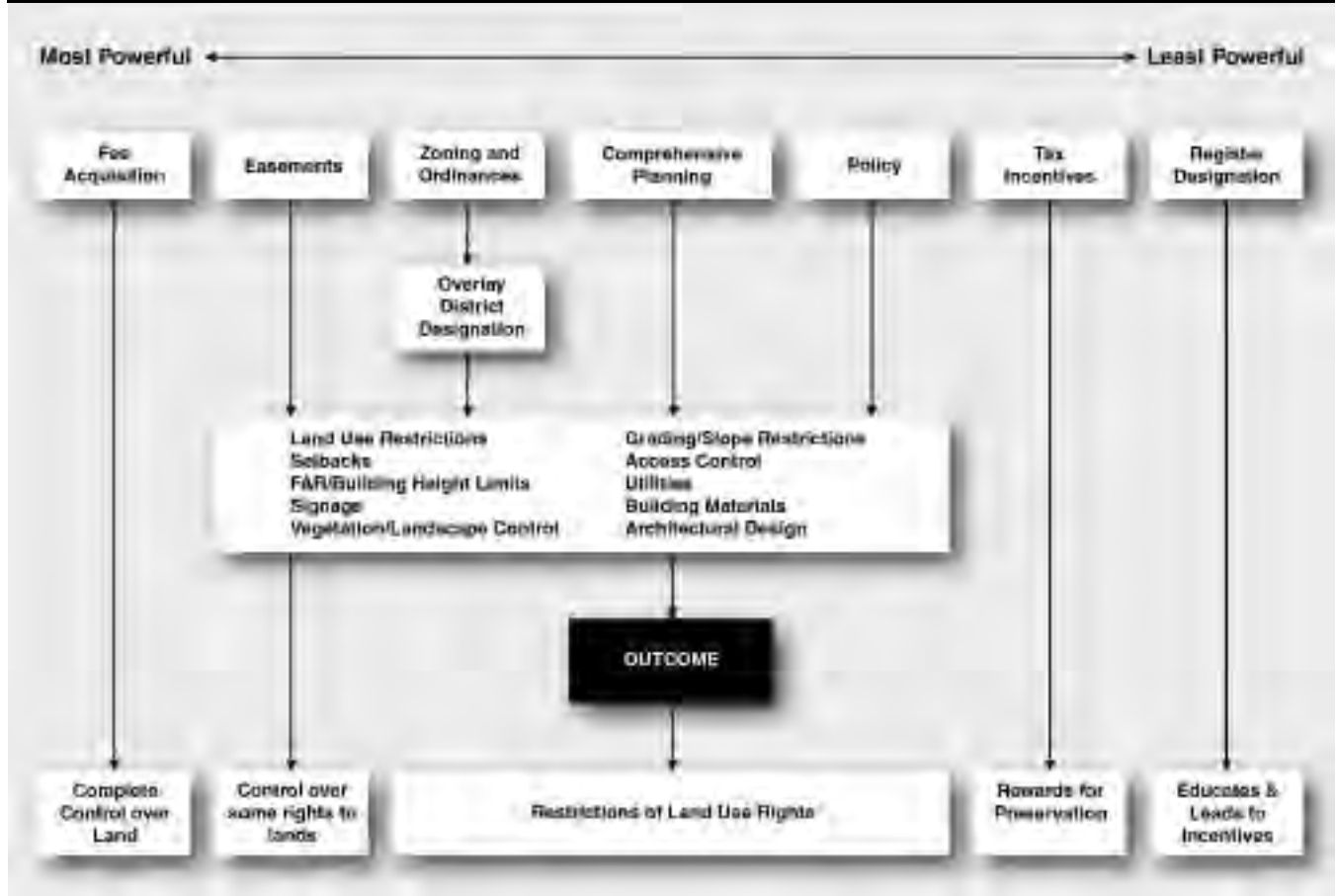
The national movement to recognize America's heritage and make it an important part of planning for the future began in Virginia. It has been the Commonwealth's official policy to confirm the importance of historic places and to provide information, recognition and incentives to support private stewardship. The state's historic preservation program began with the creation of the Virginia Landmarks Commission in 1966. DHR's Board of Historic Resources succeeded the Landmarks Commission, and the department's easement program has grown to protect more than 418 Virginia historic landmarks. The resources that are protected range from great colonial mansions, federal town houses and vernacular village dwellings, to slave quarters, archaeological sites with information on Native American, European and African-American heritage, and commercial buildings. The lands that make up the settings of these structures include tidal river marshes, farmland, battlefields, forests and urban gardens.

Virginia is blessed with possibly the richest and most diverse historic resources in the nation. These range from some of the earliest documented sites of human habitation in the western hemisphere to places that play a role in the ongoing exploration of space. The Commonwealth's resources include artifacts from thousands of years of Native American culture in Virginia, the birth of a new European nation, homes of the nation's founders, battlegrounds of both the American Revolution and Civil War, and public and private architecture that embodies the dynamic forces of immigration, frontier, and economic and industrial revolution and growth. Collectively, these resources help define Virginia's communities as places of character, texture and beauty. They are educational, cultural and economic assets; they connect Virginians to their heritage, enrich the quality of their lives, and fuel the economic engine that keeps Virginia thriving.

Local stewardship for cultural resources

Preserving these sites for future generations can play a vital part in building a sustainable future for the environment, businesses and communities. See Figure VII-1 for potential historic resource protection techniques. Development decisions to rejuvenate and reuse historic buildings conserve remaining open space and cultural landscapes, leaving Virginia's cultural legacy intact. Careful stewardship of historic resources creates communities with a strong sense of identity and place. That identity makes local heritage real and

Figure VII-1 Historic Resource Protection Techniques



meaningful for the people who live in Virginia and for those who travel to visit.

Localities continue the process of maintaining the integrity of their communities by reusing the pre-existing built environment. This has many advantages, including the elimination of waste, reduction in sprawl development, restoration of neighborhoods and creation of housing opportunities. Increasing a community's attractiveness to tourists strengthens local economies. This is evident by the creation of new jobs, as well as the generation of nearly \$800,000 in household income for every million dollars spent rehabilitating historic sites. The preservation of historic properties provides authentic and meaningful educational opportunities.

Cultural landscapes

Historic resources comprise different elements, including structures, buildings, sites, objects and districts that must be viewed within the context of the landscape. Collectively, these historic features comprise a

cultural landscape that is integrated with, and complementary to, the natural landscape. Cultural landscapes are expressions of human adaptation and use of natural resources. They range from formal courtyard gardens to rural tracts of land, and from state, suburban and urban parks.

Virginia's historic resources contribute significantly to the richness and diversity of the Commonwealth. Historic resources comprising cultural landscapes reflect cultural legacy, provide educational opportunities, give a sense of place and region, strengthen community identity and promote citizenship. Therefore, the stewardship of these resources is an important consideration in maintaining social, cultural, civic, educational and scenic values.

Natural features such as landforms, soils and vegetation provide a framework within which the cultural landscape evolves. The use of natural resources often reflected in the division and organization of a property including manmade systems of circulation allowing movement through a landscape, the types of struc-

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tures built, the types of use that influence texture and color in a landscape, and the purposeful planting of trees and shrubs (*Cultural Resource Management* NPS-28, U. S. Department of the Interior).

There are four types of cultural landscapes: historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, historic sites and ethnographic landscapes. The four cultural landscape categories are not mutually exclusive. A cultural landscape may be associated with a significant event, include designed and/or vernacular features and be significant to a specific cultural group. An example in Virginia is Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park, the site of an 1865 Civil War battle. In addition, the park's historic farmlands exhibit vernacular landscape characteristics.

Historic designed landscapes, deliberate artistic creations reflecting recognized styles, include those associated with important persons, trends or events in the history of landscape architecture. Many parks contain landscapes and related features designed by NPS landscape architects between 1916 and 1942, including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia's original six state parks and many others. Oatlands, in Loudoun County, is an example of a property with significant architectural and landscape garden features.

Historic designed landscapes include:

- Estate or plantation grounds.
- Arboreta, botanical and display gardens.
- Zoological gardens and parks.
- Church yards and cemeteries.
- Monuments and memorial grounds
- Plaza, square, green, mall or other public spaces.
- Campus and institutional grounds.
- City planning or civic design.
- Planned communities and resorts.
- Commercial and industrial grounds and parks.
- Local, state, and national campgrounds.
- Battlefield parks and other commemorative parks.
- Parkways.

(*National Register Bulletin* No. 18, U.S. Department of the Interior).



Chippokes Plantation State Park. Photo by DCR.

Historic vernacular landscapes illustrate peoples' values and attitudes toward the land and reflect patterns of settlement over time. Chippokes Plantation State Park, for example, represents a continuum of land use spanning hundreds of years. Continually, the Chippokes landscape has been reshaped by its inhabitants, but the historic mix of farm, forest and shoreline remains. Vernacular landscapes are also found in small suburban and urban parks.

Historic sites are significant for their associations with important events, activities and people. Battlefields and presidential homes are prominent examples of this landscape category in the national park system and in some Virginia park systems. At these areas, existing features and conditions are defined and interpreted primarily in terms of occurrences during particular times in the past. Historic canals and transportation systems, converted to trail or greenway corridors, exemplify this category.

Ethnographic landscapes are typically characterized by their use by contemporary ethnic groups for subsistent hunting and gathering, religious or sacred ceremonies, and other traditional activities. In the national system, the expansive Alaska parklands include ethnographic landscapes where residents hunt, fish, trap and gather, and where features are imbued with spiritual or mythological meanings. This same quality can be found in the lands occupied or used by Native Americans or specific immigrant groups.

Historic landmark preservation

Private property owners, corporations and nonprofit organizations accomplish most of the historic preservation work in Virginia. This would include the efforts of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA/Preservation Virginia) and numerous historical societies, local preservation foundations and individual historic property owners that work to preserve Virginia's most important historic sites. Similarly, most decisions about the use of historic resources are made by property owners and through local land use decision making processes (zoning, comprehensive planning, building permits, tax abatements, etc.). For the most part, state and federal agencies are involved only as a primary party in the preservation of publicly owned properties or in publicly funded or permitted projects, such as highway construction, wetlands permits and grants. The state and federal role is to encourage, support and stimulate private and local preservation efforts.

Since 1966, DHR has administered programs mandated by both state and federal law. The principal role of DHR is to identify and encourage the preservation of Virginia's historic, architectural and archaeological resources. DHR delivers programs and services to a wide range of customers, working in partnership with public agencies and private organizations and groups at the national, state and local level. Staff members assist homeowners and investors in rehabilitation when applying for tax credits, assist consultants, scholars and private citizens who research historic sites, and work with citizens and communities to identify, use and protect historic resources. DHR partners with localities for survey and planning projects, maintains the state's archaeology collection of more than five million artifacts (many of which are loaned to museums), and partners with other public and private cultural institutions for education and outreach. The department helps individuals and communities realize the benefits of preservation through the following broad range of incentives and services.

Survey and planning program

DHR partners with localities to:

- Partially fund and administer surveys, as well as to fund listing of properties and neighborhoods in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.
- Support and play an integral role in mandated local planning.
- Spur local and regional economic development, education and heritage tourism, setting the stage for application of historic rehabilitation tax credits.
- Identify and evaluate historic buildings, historic sites, and cultural landscapes.
- Give localities reports of findings, survey forms, maps and scripted slide shows for use in planning and educational initiatives.
- Support general research in the history and cultural background of localities, helping to foster pride and a sense of identity.
- Add thousands of properties to the state inventory, DHR's database of historic resources. This augments data on Virginia's historic resources for use by federal, state and local government decision makers, educational institutions and citizens.



Ruins at Rosewell plantation in Gloucester. Photo by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

The Virginia Landmarks Register, National Register of Historic Places

DHR publishes the official listing of buildings, sites, structures and districts with local, state or national historic significance to:

- Formally recognize Virginia's most significant resources with 75 to 100 new listings each year.
- Represent more than 2,400 landmarks and landmark districts.
- Support key elements of the state's tourism industry.
- Encourage stewardship of historic resources for urban revitalization.

As a partner with NPS in the national historic preservation program, DHR nominates all places listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Listing on the National Register:

- Educates property owners and the public about the value of historic resources.
- Helps qualify property owners for historic rehabilitation investment tax.

- Affords protection for historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

National Historic Landmarks and World Heritage Sites

NPS designates historic and cultural landmarks of national significance as National Historic Landmarks (NHLs). More than 110 properties have been so designated in Virginia. These properties receive a higher level of protection in federal project planning and greater consideration with federal funding for historic preservation grants. Designation can be accomplished without the participation of DHR, but their involvement is recommended.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is responsible for designation of sites on the World Heritage sites list. Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and the University of Virginia are listed as World Heritage sites. The Capitol Square Preservation Council is currently seeking this same designation for Thomas Jefferson's Capitol building in Richmond.

State Highway Markers

The state highway marker program:

- Commemorates state and local history through a highly visible and popular tool.
- Ranks among the largest marker programs in the country.
- Involves a partnership between local sponsors, DHR and VDOT.

Threatened sites

DHR identifies and encourages protection of endangered archaeological sites to:

- Provide emergency funding for threatened archaeological sites.
- Document archaeological findings at five to 10 sites per year, such as the internationally significant Cactus Hill site in Sussex County.
- Generate specialized reports used by researchers.

Preservation funding support

DHR administers the state General Assembly preservation grants to:

- Provide funding for the operation, maintenance and restoration of Virginia's historic sites and museums.

- Create major assets for education and tourism.
- Provide technical and design assistance to grantees.

Data Sharing System for Planning

DHR's Data Sharing System (DSS) is the product of a joint project between VDOT and DHR. The online system seamlessly merges the powerful analytical capabilities of a geographic information system (GIS) with a comprehensive information database of historic and prehistoric sites throughout the Commonwealth. Access to DSS is available to license-holding planners, consultants, local governments and educational institutions.

Project review

DHR reviews thousands of private and public projects annually for potential impact on historic resources including any action sponsored or funded by the federal government that may impact historic resources. The project review process is integral to state and federal environmental review processes and ensures public and private interests are fully considered and balanced with historic preservation issues.

Easements

DHR accepts preservation easements on properties of historic significance to:

- Provide a potent tool for private stewardship of historic properties through public-private partnership.
- Protect historic resources in perpetuity.
- Preserve several hundred million dollars of historic properties in fair-market value.
- Encourage investment in local economy.
- Support statewide land conservation efforts.

State and federal tax credit programs

DHR evaluates the appropriateness of rehabilitation work to reduce the taxpayer's liability under the Virginia Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program to:

- Support preservation and community revitalization through incentives.
- Stimulate private investment.
- Trigger reuse of historic structures.
- Provide tax credit of 25 percent of eligible expenses; combined with federal tax credits, totals 45 percent.
- Serve as cornerstone of brownfield development process.

DHR also administers the federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program in Virginia in partnership with NPS to:

- Provide federal tax credit on 20 percent of eligible expenses for certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties.
- Multiply benefits of the Virginia Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.

Data and collections management

To date, approximately 140,000 architectural resources (see map VII-3) and 38,000 archaeological sites (see map VII-4) across the Commonwealth have been recorded at various levels of documentation. This data is housed in DHR's archives and used by DHR staff, government agencies, consultants, researchers and the general public. The survey documentation constitutes an invaluable source of information for a broad variety of disciplines and applications, including cultural resource management, public education, scholarly research, and preservation and environmental planning.

DHR staff provides long-term care and maintenance of the state's principal archaeological collection (5 million objects), which is used for educational and research purposes by colleges and universities, consulting firms and classrooms.

DHR loans objects for museum exhibitions throughout the state; clients include Virginia Historical Society, Jamestown Settlement, Francis Land House and Colonial Williamsburg.

Education, stewardship and outreach

DHR distributes the following invaluable educational references, publications and outreach for teachers, archaeologists, architects, historians and to all DHR clients:

- *Virginia Landmarks of Black History*.
- Award-winning *First People: The Early Indians of Virginia*.
- *Guide to Virginia's Highway Markers*.
- *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide*.
- *Virginia Landmarks Register* (flagship publication).
- Archaeology reports such as the internationally known *Cactus Hill* report.
- Guidance and technical assistance publications.
- *Solving History's Mysteries: The History Discovery Lab*. The lab, a gallery in the Virginia Historical

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Map VII-4. Architectural Survey of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2000 Data



Map VII-5. Archaeological Survey of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2007 Data



Source: Department of Historic Resources, May 2007

Society, opens the way to using archaeological sites and historic places to illustrate the processes of discovering tangible evidence of our past.

- Statewide outreach: Coordinates Virginia Archaeology Month celebration with 40 to 70 tours, workshops, lectures and events every October and National Historic Preservation Month in May.
- *Virginia Time Travelers*
 - Stimulates visits from students K–12 and their families to museums and historic sites. There were more than 435,000 museum visits in 2005 and increase every year.
 - Popular educational program encompassing 320 different museum destinations.
 - Encourages heritage education and tourism in families and among communities.
 - DHR partners with Virginia Association of Museums (VAM).

Historic Districts

A historic district is a significant concentration of sites, buildings, structures or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. There are four basic types of historic district designations.

Local Ordinance Historic District

- Designation by local governments, generally through a zoning ordinance recognizing and protecting a building or group of buildings from unnecessary destruction or insensitive alteration to the exterior.
- Only district designation that regulates the property owner's use of the property.
- Made independently of any listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register.
- Criteria for local district designation may be different from those for listing on the registers.
- Localities may offer tax or other preservation incentives to owners of designated properties.

National Historic Landmark District

- Official federal recognition of a group of historic resources determined to be nationally significant.
- Places no restrictions on the private owners of property within the district.



Main Street in Yorktown. Photo by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

National Register Historic District

- A group of historically-related resources that meet the established criteria for eligibility and are significant at the national, state or local level.
- Designated by National Park Service.
- May contain both contributing and noncontributing resources.
- Public hearing and consent of the majority of property owners required.
- Places no restrictions on private owners of property within the district.

Virginia Landmarks Register District

- A group of historically related resources that meet the established criteria for eligibility and are significant at the national, state or local level.
- Designated by Virginia Board of Historic Resources.
- May contain both contributing and noncontributing resources.
- Public hearing and consent of the majority of property owners required.
- Places no restrictions on private owners of property within the district.

Heritage areas

Organizations and groups throughout the Commonwealth have identified potential national and regional heritage areas important for their variety of historic, cultural, natural and recreational resources. These resources combine to form a distinctive landscape arising from human activity shaped by geogra-

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phy. Preserving Virginia's open spaces will ensure that tourists continue to bring revenue to Virginia. The Mosby Heritage Area, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership and the Crooked Run Trail represent three vital heritage areas in Virginia. NPS is the key federal agency that designates national heritage areas with Congressional support.

The State of Maryland is one of several states that has created state heritage area programs in the recognition that heritage tourism is a powerful economic development strategy. Heritage areas certified under these state programs are geographic areas that contain high concentrations of unique historical, cultural and natural resources, and where motivated community partners are dedicated to the protection and development of those resources through heritage tourism. At the same time, heritage areas focus community attention on under-appreciated aspects of history, living culture and heritage, fostering stronger regional identities and local pride. Maryland offers a connecting framework that enjoys broad state support through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Since the program's inception nine years ago, there are now 10 Certified Heritage Areas representing 18 counties and 62 municipalities, with three more areas pursuing certification. Every county in Maryland now includes a heritage area within its borders.

Battlefield management and preservation

Virginia is blessed with more important Civil War battlefields than any other state, as well as a legacy of battlefields and related military sites from colonial, early national and more recent periods of American history. About a fifth of them have been preserved for-

ever in national, state or local parks, and many remaining battlefields are cherished and protected under private ownership. However, during the past fifteen years, some of the most significant Civil War battlefields—from Ball's Bluff to Chancellorsville, from the Wilderness to New Market Heights, from Winchester to Cloyd's Mountain—have come under increased development pressure. Seventy-nine of Virginia's nationally significant battlefields encompass a combined total area of approximately 450,000 acres, 92 percent of which are unprotected. Without strong public support and wise private stewardship, these important historic resources could disappear. Every acre of battlefield land lost to pavement shuts another window into our rich cultural heritage.

Because battlefields typically encompass hundreds or thousands of acres of land, often on the edges of cities or suburbs, partnerships are key ingredients to their preservation. To succeed with preservation on this large scale takes hard work, commitment, money and creative thinking by landowners, interest groups and government agencies—all with a vision to see that ensuring a future for Virginia's Civil War battlefields and other important military sites will enrich the future of all Virginians.

Over the past decade, there have been notable advances in public and private efforts to preserve Virginia's Civil War battlefields. With the support of Governor Kaine and Speaker of the House William Howell, the 2006 Virginia General Assembly created the Virginia Civil War Historic Site Matching Grant Preservation Fund. Malvern Hill, once seemingly doomed, is now secured, thanks to federal, state and local funding, and a supportive developer. Likewise, some of the best earthworks near North Anna River, once threatened, have been saved and are now in a county park. With the support of the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Foundation recently secured the preservation of the core area of Fisher's Hill Battlefield. Under the leadership of the Civil War Preservation Trust, working in cooperation with local preservationists and public officials at every level, parts of the Fredericksburg battlefields have been purchased. Fredericksburg preservation efforts include the Slaughter Pen Farm, noted to be the most expensive private preservation effort in American history. Land has been donated to Staunton River Bridge Battlefield State Park. Virginia Military Institute has acquired additional portions of the New Market battlefield. Wilson's Wharf in Charles City County is now preserved and accessible because of the efforts of the property owner and the assistance of DHR and other government agencies.



McDowell Civil War Battlefield in Highland County. Photo by Nancy Sorrells.



Whites Mill in Washington County. Photo by DHR.

The names of organizations dedicated to the preservation of Virginia battlefields are listed at the end of this section. They are involved either directly (as the Civil War Preservation Trust), indirectly (the American Farmland Trust, by helping farmers keep farming, saves land from development), or as part of a larger conservation mission (DHR, for instance). Every organization offers some form of membership, participatory programs or charitable funds. Contact the public information officer of DHR at www.dhr.virginia.gov for names of battlefield-specific organizations.

Special initiatives

Over the past four years, DHR has undertaken and will continue several special initiatives to leverage its core programs in order to strengthen statewide preservation efforts. The first initiative affirms that historic preservation should reflect the fullness of Virginia's historic legacy and be accessible to all citizens. By extension, the second initiative commits DHR to enhance educational opportunities about the importance of historic resources, the benefits of preserving them, and the tools available to all Virginians. A third initiative calls on all agencies of the Commonwealth to lead by example and to improve their stewardship of state-owned historic properties. A fourth initiative supports military installations in Virginia.

Diversity and accessibility initiative

A major agency-wide initiative focuses attention on the rich diversity of Virginia history and culture. This initiative involves all DHR programs and is important in recognizing places that represent the cultural contributions of African Americans, Native Americans and women to our Commonwealth. Since 2004, DHR has added 41 historic properties to the Virginia Landmarks Register, leveraged 34 historical highway markers, and reached 34,572 people through educational programs that highlight Virginia's rich diversity.

A notable example of DHR's diversity initiative and use of partnerships is the agency's role in preparations for the 2007 anniversary. The rediscovery of Powhatan's capital on the shores of the York River in Gloucester County, Werowocomoco, is a major, internationally-acclaimed archaeological achievement. Archaeological studies indicate that not only was this a major population center, it was clearly a sociopolitical center for centuries prior to 1607. The Werowocomoco investigations have created a model partnership among the private property owners, DHR, and the College of William and Mary in cooperation with Virginia tribes.

DHR envisioned and created a unique information technology solution to managing and sharing information in its historic resources inventory with no addition-

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Mattaponi tribal members demonstrate living history. Photo by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

al funds, through partnerships with VDOT, NPS, and more recently with the Army Corps of Engineers. Combining the benefits of database and GIS, the “DSS” system is web-accessible, putting information on over 180,000 historic properties literally at the fingertips of public planners and decision makers throughout the Commonwealth. In response to hurricanes and floods over the past two years, FEMA relied extensively on this system to plan restoration efforts to communities with historic buildings and districts. DHR is committed to continuous enhancement of the data-sharing system and to data maintenance. In 2005, the agency created a new user friendly version of the GIS mapping interface. DHR is currently involved in long-range efforts to reconcile paper records, database and maps—updating information on all properties listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register or under easement and updating information for several localities.

DHR staff created an award-winning website with hundreds of pages of information about agency programs, answers to preservation questions, interactive educational tools, downloadable forms and publications. DHR not only posts its board meeting notifica-

tions and minutes on its website, but also scans and makes all individual and historic district nominations available to the public prior to each meeting. Virtually all agency guidance is available on-line and makes agency programs and services more accessible.

Education, training and outreach initiative

DHR has deepened its commitment over the past four years to preservation education and preservation training and outreach. The agency has largely contributed to the wealth of educational programming that is emerging from the investigations at Werowocomoco and from a compelling study into John Smith's Chesapeake voyages sponsored by DHR, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program and the Maryland Historical Trust. The study focuses on the 1607 to 1609 time period and the natural and cultural world of the Chesapeake at the time of English colonization.

DHR has developed an African-American Archaeological Resource Kit for use on loan by classroom teachers and home-schooling parents. DHR is distributing a teacher guide and activity book to social studies and science teachers that complements DHR's *Solving History's Mysteries* exhibition, the only permanent exhibition about historic preservation in the state, located at the Virginia Historical Society. DHR formed new partnerships with the Virginia Historical Society for development of traveling exhibits on the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia and on Three American Beginnings: Jamestown (1607), Quebec (1608) and Santa Fe (1609). Opportunities for learning outside the classroom also abound through the TimeTravelers Program. This program involves 320 museums and historic sites across the state and is cosponsored by DHR and the Virginia Association of Museums.

DHR's training and outreach efforts are enhanced through partnerships with the APVA/Preservation Virginia, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Virginia Military Institute. DHR is actively engaged in planning and delivery of the APVA Preservation Virginia's annual Statewide Preservation Conference and an annual series of regional training workshops. DHR has cooperated with the National Trust in presenting preservation forums at strategic locations across the state and training workshops to build the capacity and effectiveness of preservation organizations. In the past three years, DHR has played an increasingly stronger role in planning and delivery of the annual Environment Virginia Conference at VMI.

State stewardship initiative

DHR worked closely with the Department of General Services (DGS) during the careful interior and exterior refurbishing of the State Capitol and its below ground expansion. This renovation preserves this irreplaceable landmark while adapting it to serve 21st century needs. The restoration of the “Old State Library,” rededicated in 2005 as the Patrick Henry Building, and the Finance Building, renamed in honor of famed civil rights lawyer and trailblazer Oliver Hill also illustrate state leadership to reinvest in buildings and support of adaptive reuse of landmark properties. DHR has successfully collaborated with other resource management agencies including DCR, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Department of Forestry, as well as with state institutions of higher education such as the University of Virginia, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech, and Virginia Commonwealth University to list historic properties in their care on the Virginia Landmarks Register and to incorporate these historic resources into future plans.

Preservation of historic military installations

Virginia leads the nation in helping military installations integrate historic preservation and reuse of historic buildings as they meet the demands of the 21st century. In recent years, DHR has worked closely with military leaders through the following projects.

- Making the most of historic buildings while modernizing thousands of housing units at Forts Belvoir, Eustis and Story, Quantico Marine Corps Base, and military installations across the state as they privatize military base housing. This massive, high profile project represents the first major overhaul of military housing since World War II.
- Helping the Navy balance preservation and interpretation of buildings important to telling the story of WWI as it revamps installations for 21st century warfare.
- Assisting Fort Monroe to recover from \$100 million of damage by Hurricane Isabel, to move forward with adaptive reuse of outstanding landmark buildings such as the Chamberlain Hotel and the YMCA building, and to fulfill its responsibilities under the Base Relocation and Closing process, including establishment of the Federal Area Development Authority and exploration of options for redevelopment and public interpretation of the site.

Resources

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
(804) 367-2323
www.dhr.state.va.us

U.S. Department of the Interior

Cultural Resource Management
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127
www.cr.nps.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 588-6038
www.nthp.org

APVA/Preservation Virginia

204 West Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23220
(804) 648-1889
www.apva.org

Civil War Preservation Trust

1331 H Street, NW, Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 367-1865
www.civilwar.org

American Farmland Trust

1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 331-7300
www.farmland.org

Conservation Fund

1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120
Arlington, VA 22209-2156
(703) 525-4610
www.conservationfund.org